

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 14121 251235Z
ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IGA-02 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00
OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SSM-03 L-03 /104 W
-----050884 252050Z /70

R 251146Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8686
USDA FAS WASHDC
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

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DEPARTMENT PASS AID

FAS PASS OGSM

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EWWT EAID EG
SUBJ: UNLOADING OF PL-480 WHEAT IN PORT SAID

REF: CAIRO 13260

1. MARINE SHIPPING CORPORATION (MSC) FINISHED DISCHARGING
WHEAT FROM STRATHEARN AUGUST 21, TWO DAYS LATER THAN HOPED
FOR IN REF; BEGAN DISCHARGING PERICLES HALCONSSIS AUGUST 22.
MSC HAD TO SLOW DOWN PACE FROM AVERAGE 2500 TONS/DAY
TO 2000 TONS/DAY AS FEWER TRUCKS BECAME AVAILABLE O/A
AUGUST 8-10. CAUSE SEEMS TO BE THAT THREE OTHER GRAIN
SHIPS ARE NOW MOURED IN PORT SAID, SO THAT TOTAL GRAIN
DISCHARGING AT PRESENT TIME IN PORT SAID IS 4000 TONS/DAY.
TOTAL AMOUNT OF TRUCKING REQUIRED HAS THUS INCREASED
DRAMATICALLY; PRIOR TO INCEPTION OF MSC, PORT SAID
ONLY HANDLED AVERAGE 1500 TONS/DAY. INCREASE IN
PORT SAID SHOULD RESULT IN LESSENED PRESSURE ON
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 14121 251235Z

ALEXANDRIA HARBOUR.

2. WHILE DISAPPOINTED AT REDUCED RATE OF DISCHARGE,
MSC WILLING TO BIDE TIME, CONCENTRATING NOW ON BUILDING
12,000 TON-CAPACITY WAREHOUSE. WHEN WAREHOUSE
COMPLETED, MINISTRY OF SUPPLY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO
COMPLAIN ABOUT PILING UP WHEAT AND MSC WILL INSIST

THAT MINISTRY SUPPLY KEEP TO MINIMUM CONTRACT RATE OF
2.500 TONS/DAY. (MSC IS CAPABLE OFFLOADING AT LEAST
6,000 TONS/DAY.)

3. BRUER RELATES THAT MINISTRY SUPPLY HAS NOW INQUIRED ABOUT POSSIBILITY MSC BUILDING AUTOMATED SACKING AND LOADING SYSTEM, IN ADDITION TO CONVEYOR OFFLOADING SYSTEM. GIVEN VEHEMENT LOCAL OPPOTIION TO CONVEYOR SYSTEM WHEN INSTITUTED IN JUNE, BRUER IS RELUCTANT TO WAGE WAR AGAIN - BUT HE WILL IMPORT A SINGLE MACHINE FOR TRY-OUT PURPOSES. HE IS FULLY AWARE NOW THAT NO AMOUNT OF AUTOMATED EFFICIENCY ON HIS PART WILL MAKE UP FOR INADEQUATE TRANSPORT CAPACITY.

4. ONE FACTOR THAT REDUCES NUMBER OF TRUCKS AVAILABLE IS THE CHAOTIC CONDITION AT THE CUSTOMS POINT ALONG HIGHWAY LEADING OUT OF PORT SAID. (NOTE: ONLY OTHER HIGHWAY OUT OF PORT SAID LEADS TO THE NORTHERN DELTA AND IS NOT USEFUL FOR TRUCK TRANSPORT TO CAIRO.)
AT 1500 ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY, AUGUST 22 - 23, CONSUL OBSERVED TRUCKS- MAINLY WHEAT TRUCKS - LINED UP FOR 11/2 MILES IN FRONT OF CUSTOMS GATE; SITUATION IS SAID TO BE MARKEDLY WORSE FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS. TRUCKS MAY SIT FOR TWELVE HOURS WAITING TO LEAVE THE CITY, THUS DOUBLING ROUND-TRIP TIME TO CAIRO. PORT SAID CHIEF OF SECURITY SAMY KHODAIR ASSURES THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 14121 251235Z

MEASURES WILL SOON BE TAKEN TO SPEED UP CUSTOMS PROCESSING OF TRUCKS. ONE HOPEFUL SIGN IS THAT PORT SAID CUSTOM DIRECTOR MOAWED MAAREK HAS JUST BEEN SACKED.
EILTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: CAIRO
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